

when she stepped into a group of people that were beating a man and risked bodily harm to protect him, she made a greater statement than she could have dreamed. I was certainly moved by the picture of a young black woman shielding a Ku Klux Klan member from an angry crowd. And from the tremendous response her action has gotten, it appears that people all over the Nation were moved as well.

Extremely modest about the incident and her status as "heroine", Keshia credits the people who raised her, joking, "who says teenagers don't listen." She considers herself very much a product of her upbringing by her parents and several other adults who taught her from an early age the value of education and tolerance. My office contacted Ms. Thomas and discovered that she was no stranger to Washington, DC. In 1994, Carol Tice, one of the influential people in Keshia's life, took her to the signing of Goals 2000, where she met President Clinton. Other family friends like Joseph Dulin, a principal of an Ann Arbor High School, Joe Lewis, Keshia's horseback riding instructor, and Bernadette Lewis have provided and continue to provide her with support and instruction.

Each of these men and women deserve credit in their own right, for recognizing the importance of mentoring young people. Far from the political rhetoric of family values, these people have shown by example what a valuable investment a community can make by supporting its children. The image of Keshia Thomas' bravery and humanitarianism touched us all, and we must remember that—like every image, there is a whole story behind it.

Keshia Thomas didn't act with the intention of being lauded by the press or given awards, and that is what makes her actions truly heroic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for giving the country a stunning example of compassion and a valuable lesson. Her philosophy of nonviolence echoes that of history's most influential activists. "Beating someone won't change their mind * * * maybe what I did might change somebody's mind."

After the incident was over, one of the first things that made Keshia Thomas feel like a hero was her 11-year-old brother telling her he was proud of her. Mr. President, I think we all are. •

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to salute an outstanding group of young women who have been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn and symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14-17, or in grades 9-12.

The young ladies from Kentucky who will receive this honor are: Alicia Beth Ayers, Nancy Bach, Karen Blandford, Stacy Cook, Erin Davis, Kimberly Dudgeon, Erin Emery, Emily Evans, Allison Grant, Sharon Hagan, Kimberly Hall, Colleen Kelly, Jennifer Kovacs, Katherine Lindle, Shannon Metcalf, Amy Poppell, Pasquel Ross, Emily Shults, Kimberly Stephenson, Renee Stewart, Heather Watt, Kate Woodford, and Allison Zettwoch from the Kentuckiana Girl Scout Council.

Christie DeMoss, Julie Ann Greis, Mindy Hiles, Jacqui Meier, Angela Schierberg, and Christina Teeters from the Licking Valley Girl Scout Council.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

Mr. President, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these outstanding young ladies. They deserve recognition for their contributions to their community and their country and I wish them continued success in the years ahead. •

EQUITABLE RELIEF WITH RESPECT TO S. 1880, THE STOP TAX-EXEMPT ARENA DEBT ISSUANCE ACT

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I recently introduced two bills to correct a serious misallocation of our limited resources under the present law rules that govern the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. My first bill, S. 1879, the Section 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations Tax-Exempt Bond Reform Act of 1996, would increase funding for educational and research facilities at private colleges and universities by removing the arbitrary and injurious \$150 million cap on the amount of tax-exempt bonds that can be issued on their behalf. The Senate has twice passed this measure as part of larger legislation that was vetoed for unrelated reasons.

My second bill, S. 1880, the Stop Tax-exempt Arena Debt Issuance Act—or "STADIA" for short—would provide a particularly appropriate revenue offset for the first bill. This bill would end a tax subsidy that inures largely to the benefit of wealthy sports franchise owners, by eliminating tax-subsidized financing of professional sports facilities. This legislation is important in its own right, and would close a loophole that ultimately injures State and local governments and other issuers of tax exempt bonds, that provides an un-

intended federal subsidy—in fact, contravenes Congressional intent—and that contributes to the enrichment of persons who need no Federal assistance whatsoever.

I chose to introduce S. 1880 with an immediate effective date for a number of reasons. Most importantly, Congress intended to eliminate the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to finance professional sports facilities as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. An immediate effective date is appropriate because the issuance of these bonds contravenes the clear and expressed intent of Congress. Also, an immediate effective date is necessary to prevent a rush to market. I have no doubt that bond market professionals would act very quickly to issue stadium bonds if provided a window of opportunity in which to do so. The potential for a rush to market would have a predictable impact on the revenue estimate for this measure.

At the same time, I recognized that a few localities may have expended significant time and funds in planning and financing a professional sports facility, in reliance upon professional advice on their ability to issue tax-exempt bonds. Thus, in my introductory statement, I specifically requested comment regarding "the need for equitable relief for stadiums already in the planning stages."

In response to my request, several localities that had been planning to finance professional sports facilities with tax-exempt bonds have already come forward. They have provided the details necessary to craft appropriate "binding contract" type transitional relief. They have also informed me that, despite my clear statement that appropriate transition relief would be afforded, some proposed stadium deals could be delayed or called into question in reaction to the introduction of the bill. Let me emphasize that the mere introduction of the bill has caused this reaction.

It is flattering that the mere introduction of a bill is given such credence by the bond markets. It is important to note, however, that at the time I introduced my bill to eliminate tax-exempt financing for professional sports facilities, 1,879 bills were on file in the Senate and 3,659 bills were on file in the House in this Congress. The vast majority of these bills have not and will not become law, including, in all likelihood, S. 1879 and S. 1880.

The history of this Senator's efforts to remove the \$150 million cap demonstrates this lesson well. The cap was first imposed under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which President Reagan signed into law on October 22, 1986. I first introduced legislation to repeal this cap in 1987. Since then, legislation to remove the cap has been approved by the Finance Committee four times. Twice the legislation was passed by Congress, and both times President Bush vetoed the bills containing this measure for other reasons. Today, the cap remains in law.